

**CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30(FIN)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 4/10/06**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES JOULE, Berkowitz, Kerttula, Samuels, Ramras, Foster, Guttenberg, Moses**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Creating an Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** recent weather patterns have created warming trends that have  
4 jeopardized the health and well-being of residents of communities and the natural resources  
5 on which they rely; and

6 **WHEREAS** flooding and erosion negatively affect coastal and river communities in  
7 both rural and urban areas of the state; and

8 **WHEREAS** coastal communities are negatively affected by flooding and erosion  
9 because of delayed formation of protective shore ice in the fall; and

10 **WHEREAS** communities along riverbanks or in river deltas are more susceptible to  
11 flooding and erosion caused by ice jams, snow and glacial melts, rising sea levels, changing  
12 river patterns, and heavier rainfall; and

13 **WHEREAS** permafrost is found beneath approximately 80 percent of the state; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in recent years, there has been widespread thawing of permafrost in  
15 some areas, causing land to slump and erode, which in turn has caused serious damage to  
16 roads, buildings, and other infrastructure; and

1       **WHEREAS** the thawing of the permafrost is likely to continue, which will have a  
 2 continuing negative effect on future structures and development; and

3       **WHEREAS** fish and wildlife habitats are changing, affecting the accessibility and  
 4 viability of certain species; and

5       **WHEREAS** resource development and the revenue it generates are potentially  
 6 negatively affected by the effects of climate change; and

7       **WHEREAS** the rapidly retreating sea ice affects polar route navigation and has raised  
 8 security concerns; and

9       **WHEREAS** the state has only one employee working on these issues; and

10       **WHEREAS**, although the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment provides the necessary  
 11 scientific foundation to assess current effects of climate change in the Arctic, it does not  
 12 address the economic effects of climate change on the State of Alaska; and

13       **WHEREAS** a comprehensive plan to address these issues, prevent or mitigate  
 14 negative effects of climate change, and address economic effects on the state will help save  
 15 lives, protect public health, preserve economic and resource development, and protect  
 16 valuable infrastructure;

17       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that there is created an Alaska  
 18 Climate Impact Assessment Commission; and be it

19       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall consist of 15 members as  
 20 follows:

21               (1) two senators appointed by the president of the senate;

22               (2) two representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of  
 23 representatives; and

24               (3) 11 public members appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the  
 25 speaker of the house of representatives consisting of

26                       (A) one member who represents the Denali Commission;

27                       (B) one member from the University of Alaska with expertise in  
 28 climate impact effects;

29                       (C) one member who represents the Alaska Federation of Natives;

30                       (D) one member who is knowledgeable in the area of land  
 31 management and restoration of wildlife and natural resources;

1 (E) one member knowledgeable in the engineering requirements for  
2 public highway and facility construction and maintenance;

3 (F) two members who represent affected Alaska communities;

4 (G) two members who represent affected Alaska businesses;

5 (H) one member knowledgeable in the area of fish and game; and

6 (I) one member who represents Alaska youth, based on the  
7 recommendation of the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the public members of the commission may receive  
9 compensation for per diem or reimbursement for travel or other expenses incurred in serving  
10 on the commission; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission may meet during and between  
12 legislative sessions; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House and Senate Resources Committees may  
14 assign committee staff to provide support services for the commission; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the commission include the following:

16 (1) assess the current and potential effects of climate warming trends on the  
17 citizens, natural resources, public health, and economy of the state, in particular the adverse  
18 effects on natural resource development, forest safety, fish and game utilization,  
19 transportation, community, and resource development infrastructures;

20 (2) estimate costs to the state and its citizens of adverse effects associated with  
21 climate change;

22 (3) identify specific circumstances of flooding and erosion that have affected  
23 life, property, and economic and resource development in the state;

24 (4) examine alternative measures to prevent and mitigate the effects of  
25 flooding and erosion;

26 (5) develop policies to guide infrastructure investments in Alaska villages,  
27 cities, and boroughs that are most affected by flooding and erosion;

28 (6) recommend land use regulations, including area standards for designation  
29 of land prone to flooding and erosion;

30 (7) investigate and assess issues involving permafrost and damage caused by  
31 permafrost;

1 (8) recommend policies to decrease the negative effects of climate change;  
2 and

3 (9) identify and coordinate efforts of mutual concern with federal, state, and  
4 local agencies; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall offer recommendations and  
6 provide possible solutions and preventative measures that can be implemented by Alaska  
7 communities and by the state and federal governments; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall conduct eight hearings  
9 throughout the state to fulfill its purpose; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall deliver a preliminary report of its  
11 findings to the legislature on March 1, 2007, and make a final report to the legislature on  
12 January 10, 2008, together with legislative proposals for consideration; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall be available for legislative  
14 hearing on its final report and recommendations; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the continuation or termination of the commission  
16 shall be reevaluated at the Second Regular Session of the Twenty-Fifth Alaska State  
17 Legislature.